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M E M O R A N D U M
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TO: Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining

FROM: Mary Ann Wright, Reclamation Biologist

DATE: January 15, 1979

SUBJECT: Variances sought by Stauffer Chemical Co. to Rule M-10
(Reclamation Standards) for it's Vernal Phosphate Mine.

A general recommendation from the Division Staff concerning the reclamation plan at the Stauffer Chemical Company's Vernal Phosphate Mine is that it be treated in the same manner as the Kennocott Copper Corporation's reclamation plan. That is, that a certain amount of reclamation at the site be required of Stauffer Chemical Company on an annual basis.

The invitation has been extended by representatives of Stauffer Chemical Company for members of the Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining to visit the mine site. It is felt that such a visit would greatly assist the Board Members in understanding the unique situations faced by this operation and would aid in moving it's mining plan towards final approval.

The requested variances were divided into four categories by the Division Staff:

- I. Allowed as requested.
- II. Allowed with condition.
- III. Not allowed.
- IV. Judgement reserved pending field inspection.

I. Variances allowed as requested.

None

II. Variances allowed with conditions.

A. Rule M-10-2(e).

Division Staff feels that although all three reasons given by Stauffer are true at present, there is no provision for long range conditions such as could be found 50 to 100 years following abandonment. Knowledge of the hazardous rims of natural drainages is presently accessible through the use of topographic maps, whereas knowledge of newly created highwalls is not accessible to the public. Therefore, the Division recommends the creation of berms above the pit highwalls upon final abandonment of the mining pits.

B & H. Rule M-10-3 & 13

Impoundment of the tailings pond is presently allowed but at the final termination of operations, the tailings pond and dam should be brought to a non-impounding condition prior to revegetation.

D. Rule M-10-5

Highwalls may be left at the site upon final abandonment but only with berms having been constructed above them.

G. Rule M-10-12

Along with mine dumps and fills, abandoned roads must also be revegetated. Slick rock and highwalls can be exempted by the Division from revegetation requirements.

Revegetation rules do not require that the land be reclaimed to the same type of surrounding or pre-existing vegetation, Stauffer misunderstands the reclamation rules.

Division staff recommends a more variable seed mixture than that submitted with the original mining plan, in order to be consistent with the stated post-mining use of private rangeland.

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 1979

Page Three

Division staff requests verification of an existing vegetative cover of "less than 10%" at the mine site and further requests to be shown that this determination was made through the use of professionally accepted inventory methods.

III. Variances not allowed.

C. Rule M-10-4

In the staff's opinion, nothing should be relinquished under this rule as far as Division authority to require stable slopes.

IV. E. & F. Rule M-10-7 & 8

The Division staff would like to reserve judgement as to the granting of a variance under Rule M-10-7 & 8 until roads, pads and "restricted drainage crossings" can be examined, when weather permits, by Division engineering and hydrologic personnel.